

**GTF Combined Committee
Problem Solving and Collaboration
Meeting Minutes**

Facilitator/Leader: Judge Susan Dobrich & Sandy Lindsey	Date: Friday, September 8, 2006
Recorder: Sandy Lindsey	Time: 8:30 a.m.
Present: Judge Dobrich, Sandy Lindsey, Beverly Davidson, Don Duquette, Pat Sorenson, Martha Tjhin, Beverly Davidson, Pat Wagner, Absent: Kathleen Kovalchik-Lacko, Robert O'Brien, Radwin Koury, Wayne Beerbower, Christine McPherson, Kiffi Ford, Michael Reisch, Lisa Sullivan, Alice Thompson, Eugene Moore, David Wolock Guests: Bill Newhouse, Children's Charter	Location: Hall of Justice, Lansing Next Meeting: GTF Summit in Traverse City, October 25-27, 2006 Combined Committee mtg. on Friday, November 3, 2006 8:30 am – 10:30 am, location to be determined

Topic Description	Person Responsible
1. Welcome and Introductions	Judge Dobrich/Sandy Lindsey
Results of Discussion: All members of the newly combined committees at present being referred to as the "Collaboration, Coordination & Problem Solving Committee" were welcomed to the first combined meeting and introductions of all members occurred.	
2. Discussion of Committee Work and Projects To Date	All
Results of Discussion: <u>Problem Solving Update:</u> Judge Dobrich gave a summary of the recent activity of the Problem Solving Committee. "Lately it seems as though we have become a project review committee and catch-all committee." Judge reviewed the proposed projects under review and current status: A. Doug Van Epps (Dispute Resolution Center/State Court Administrators Office) has submitted a request for funding to pilot the expansion of mediation as a new method to handle Abuse/Neglect proceedings with a Permanency Planning focus.	A. There was no specified timeframe for a revised proposal to arrive back at the committee for

To date the Problem Solving Committee has asked for those involved with the proposal to meet with DHS Central Office staff leaders as the proposal seems to have duplicative features to the DHS Family to Family initiative. Depending upon the outcomes of these joint discussions, there may be a need to reconsider a revised proposal from Mr. Van Epps.

reconsideration. Judge Dobrich has agreed to alert the committee of any need to consider funding for a revised proposal.

- B. Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI), with Terri Covington as the lead, has requested \$25,000 for FY 2007 to conduct a comprehensive review and compilation of all Child Welfare related protocols. The final product would be a single reference source for protocols dealing with child death and serious injury.

This proposal has received final GTF approved for funding. Whether the final product will be on paper or an electronic document is still uncertain.

C. The Problem Solving Committee has asked Mr. Ferry for more detail on the planning model that supports the funding request. The proposal is thus on hold and Judge Dobrich has agreed to keep the committee apprised of Mr. Ferry's proposal revisions and any reconsideration for funding.

- C. John Ferry, consultant working with the Center for Research and Professional Development at MSU, has requested FY 2007 funding to develop a strategic planning process to help communities' structure resources to support child protection proceedings to achieve permanency. The proposal described a modification to a similar community planning process used in delinquency proceedings (Jurisdictional Planning).

- D. Child Protective Services (CPS) new Domestic Violence Policy Training:

The Governors Task Force has approved that \$30,000 be set aside in FY 2007 to cover the cost of regional training of all CPS staff in the new Domestic Violence Policy. To date the GTF has insisted that if the training costs are covered, that the training of all CPS staff must be mandatory. DHS officials have agreed to mandatory training in the new policy for all CPS workers. The training will be done by the domestic violence board staff and DHS training staff. The training project will be managed by DHS.

D. Judge Dobrich will follow-up regarding the start-up time frame for the project.

E. Children's Charter has requested \$4,000 in FY 2007 to update the (Yellow Book) *Guide to Achieving Permanency for Children*.

The project will provide hard copy insert updates to the existing Yellow Book. The project budget at this point will cover the tasks of creating/developing the update insert, copying costs and distribution.

The committee went on to discuss the future of the yellow book and the idea to move away from hard copy publications to an electronic format.

Motion by Judge Dobrich with Support from Don Duquette to discuss with the full task force the move to an electronic format for the Yellow Book for the next complete publication as the future evolution of this reference document. Motion Passed.

F. Family Dependency Treatment Drug Court Readiness Training & Support:

This is an approved 2006 project with Children's Charter. The project funded at \$20,000 is providing technical support and consultation services by Bill Newhouse to local Family Courts interested in planning for the potential implementation of Family Dependency Treatment Drug Courts. Project expenditures will be incurred by 9/30/06.

Collaboration Committee Update:

Pat Sorenson and Sandy Lindsey were prepared to update the group regarding recent committee activities. However, time did not allow for this presentation. However, Sandy did provide a written summary of the conversations with Jim Hennessey of DHS and Sheri Falvay of MDCH. This business will be taken up at the next committee meeting. The handout is attached with these minutes for preliminary

E. Judge Dobrich believes that GTF has given final funding authorization for this project and believes that the approval came through an electronic vote of GTF members. She has agreed to investigate this assumption and verify funding approval.

Sandy and Judge D. have agreed to take the idea of moving the next yellow book publication to an electronic reference document to the GTF Executive Committee.

<p>review by committee members.</p> <p><u>Training and Staff Development What A Concept:</u></p> <p>Although not a specific planned agenda item, the group had a very good discussion regarding how much of the GTF Budget was being spent on training. There was general agreement that the GTF should set specific expectations for the use of funds for training that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds a competent work force in our State across all disciplines and functions in child welfare proceedings and also for those disciplines supporting and treating children in foster care, adoption and programs that foster healthy reunification and permanency. • Utilize these public resources wisely and help to build and maintain credentials. CEU's offered with GTF training should be pursued. This is especially important in light of the new state licensing law for social workers. • GTF training funds should not be viewed as a fund source to make up for reductions in training budgets of state departments or private sub contractors of state and local government agencies. • We must undo the cultural practice of the GTF in not charging any percentage of the cost of training to participants. This is a luxury that we can no longer afford and leads to waste of public funds. <p>It was also noted, that because the procurement process has been so very difficult in the last year, training has emerged as the only viable avenue for GTF expenditure largely due to the support of the SCAO managing the training activities of the GTF operating outside this bureaucracy.</p>	<p>Judge Dobrich and Sandy agreed to take these ideas to the GTF Executive Committee</p>
<p>3. Combined Committee Mission and Purpose: Will we be project initiators or reviewers of proposed projects for GTF funding?</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Results of Discussion:</p> <p>What was planned as a discussion of the new combined mission for the committee actually turned into a larger discussion of the current challenges for the GTF generally. The veteran members of the GTF that were present described how different things are at present time from the way the GTF conducted business in the not so distant past. Previous autonomy of the GTF from State procurement bureaucracy,</p>	<p>Judge Dobrich and Sandy will bring this recommendation to the Executive Committee.</p> <p>Judge Dobrich will draft a letter to Justice</p>

<p>inadequate levels and expertise of staffing support to the GTF and the inability to initiate GTF pilot projects as a result, were discussed as challenges and obstacles.</p> <p>Hence it is not surprising that as one of the few functions of State government in these challenging economic times that do not have all fund sources committed to regular State government operations that outside parties are approaching the GTF for funding. Is the tail wagging the dog?</p> <p>Motion by Don Duquette with Support from Judge Dobrich to recommend to the GTF Executive Committee that the staffing support is evaluated and that the GTF have a greater voice in determining its staffing needs. Motion Passed.</p> <p><i>(It should be noted, that this discussion content had nothing to do with the sound performance of the current or immediate past staff assigned to the GTF. These staff have in fact been most responsive.)</i></p>	<p>Weaver in this regard.</p>
<p>4. Potential Projects for 2007/ Role and Focus of GTF and Connection to the Strategic Plan</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Results of Discussion:</p> <p>What was planned as a discussion of additional projects to recommend to the full task force members by the combined committee was replaced with a discussion of the role of the GTF and the seeming lack of connection of the current activity to the existing GTF Strategic Plan. The group agreed that for a large percentage of current GTF members that were not participants in the Strategic Plan, not only is the plan a mystery, but there does not seem to be any easily recognizable connection of current activity to the document. Other thoughts from the discussion included the following which need further discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisiting the Strategic Plan and the connection to 2007 GTF activity • Priorities for GTF expenditures • Overtly challenge the autonomy of the GTF/revisit the federal requirements • Consider an active presence with the Michigan Legislature and a role for the GTF on matters of public policy regarding child welfare issues. Consider the role of GTF as a citizen body of influence as opposed to just a “payor” for outside projects 	<p>Judge Dobrich and Sandy agreed to bring this matter to the attention of the Executive Committee. These issues need to be added to the letter to Judge Weaver being drafted by Judge Dobrich.</p>

<p>5. Housekeeping (next meeting, communications, minutes, other)</p> <p>Results of Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Contacts List of the combined committee members has been created and members were asked to review their own contact information for accuracy. The committee would like Colleen to check with members not present to confirm that their contact information is correct. Once all information is verified, the corrected Contacts List for the combined committee should be sent out to all members. • Committee would like Colleen to determine a location and make arrangements for the November 3, 2006 Combined Committee meeting. • Committee would like Colleen to e-mail the Combined Committee member asking them to save the November meeting date along with the following attachments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Committee meeting minutes once approved by Judge Dobrich and Sandy b. The Falvay/Hennessey Meeting Summary document prepared by Sandy (this content will be on the November committee agenda) c. The letter that Judge Dobrich is planning to write to Justice Weaver as a follow-up to this meeting d. The Combined Committee Contact List asking members to check it for accuracy, • Committee would like Colleen to investigate telephone conferencing capability for committee members to dial into committee meetings. This arrangement would support more member participation by helping member make better use of their time and save GTF travel expenses. 	<p>Sandy and Judge Dobrich will communicate with Colleen to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up with committee members not present on accuracy of their contact information and circulate corrected list to members • Explore committee telephone conferencing capability
<p>Results of Discussion:</p>	
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